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LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

The Library of Congress

THIRD EDITION

WASHINGTON
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE
LIBRARY BRANCH
1922





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" LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

The Library of Congress

THIRD EDITION

SCHOOL OF LIBRARIANSHIP
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA

WASHINGTON
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE
LIBRARY BRANCH
1922

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PREFATORY NOTE

This account of the Library of Congress was prepared in 1911 by William Warner Bishop, Superintendent of the Reading Room from 1907 to September, 1915. It was first issued by the American Library Association Publishing Board as a "preprint" of Chapter II of the "A. L. A. Manual of Library Economy". With the consent of the Publishing Board the Library of Congress reprinted it for its own use in 1914, with the addition of certain plans of the building. This present issue brings the statistics down to date and includes new matter descriptive of activities developed since the publication of the previous edition.

FREDERICK W. ASHLEY

Superintendent of the Reading Room

HERBERT PUTNAM

Librarian of Congress

November 1, 1922

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THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

HISTORY¹

The Library of Congress was established by virtue of an act of Congress approved April 24, 1800, appropriating \$5,000 for the purchase of books and for fitting up a suitable apartment in the Capitol to contain them. In 1802 a joint committee of both Houses on the Library was created. Under direction of this committee the Library continued for many years, but with the abandonment of joint committees the control passed more and more to the librarian. Since 1897 the direction of the Library has been entirely in his hands as a matter of law.

In 1814 the Library, then numbering slightly over 3,000 volumes, was destroyed when the Capitol was burned by the British troops. Very shortly thereafter the library of Thomas Jefferson, amounting to about 7,000 volumes, was purchased as a nucleus of a new collection. A catalogue of this library, made by Jefferson himself, was published in 1815. The system of classification used by him was followed in the arrangement of the books and in various published catalogues until 1864. The annual increase was steady but small (about 1,300 volumes) until a second disastrous fire in 1851 left but 20,000 volumes out of the 55,000 to which the collection had grown. Appropriations were made at once to restore the Library's quarters in the Capitol and to replace at least in part the books destroyed. In 1865 these quarters were much enlarged and in 1867 the purchase for \$100,000 of the Peter Force collection of Americana of some

¹Cf. Johnston, Wm. Dawson, *History of the Library of Congress*, vol. 1, 1800-1864. Washington, Government Printing Office, 1904.

U. S. Library of Congress. *Report of the librarian for 1901*. Washington, Government Printing Office, 1901, pp. 183-197; cf. also the annual reports from 1897 to date.

60,000 articles increased materially the size of the Library, which had reached nearly 100,000 volumes in the previous year. In 1867 also the library of the Smithsonian Institution of some 40,000 volumes, consisting largely of transactions of learned societies, was deposited with the Library of Congress, which has continued to act as the custodian for the Smithsonian Institution. Largely by virtue of this arrangement, the Library's collections of the transactions of learned societies has become the most extensive in America.

From 1846 to 1859 the copyright law required one copy of a copyrighted book to be deposited in the Library. The same provision was in force from 1865 to 1870. The act of July 8, 1870, placed the registration of copyrights under the care of the Librarian of Congress, and required the deposit of two copies of each article copyrighted. The provision remains in force, with a few exceptions, under the act of March 4, 1909.

With the administration of Dr. A. R. Spofford, appointed librarian in 1864, the Library entered on a period of rapid growth. In addition to the Force collection many smaller collections were acquired, large numbers of newspapers were secured and bound, and the manuscripts greatly increased by the purchase of the Rochambeau and other papers. The operation of the copyright law and the agreement with the Smithsonian Institution permitted the somewhat meager appropriations for the increase of the Library to be used to great advantage in the auction market and in buying foreign books. When Dr. Spofford retired from the active direction of the Library in 1897 it had grown to about a million volumes and pamphlets. The crowding of this collection in the extremely inadequate space at the Capitol had long since shown the imperative need of a separate building for the Library.

As early as 1873 Congress began to consider the matter of new quarters. In 1886, after 13 years of discussion, the construction of a new building was authorized on the site immediately east of the Capitol. This building was completed in February, 1897, at a cost of \$6,347,000, on land costing \$585,000. The books were

moved to the building in the following summer, with the exception of a portion of the law library, which still remains at the Capitol.

Before the new building was occupied, Congress in the appropriation act of 1897 provided for the reorganization of the Library, created the office of register of copyrights, and increased the number of employees. Dr. Spofford, to whose unwearied zeal and enthusiasm the growth of the Library was largely due, became chief assistant librarian in 1897 on the appointment of John Russell Young as librarian. In 1899 Herbert Putnam was called from the Boston Public Library to the post made vacant by Mr. Young's death.

Since entering the new building¹ the Library has grown remarkably in size and in service rendered. It has become in fact, if not in name, the national library. In 1922 its collections numbered: books, 3,000,408; maps and charts, 174,093; music, 954,304; prints, photographs, etc., 428,745. The number of persons employed in the building is 694, including 91 in the copyright office, 150 occupied with the care of the building and grounds, and 95 engaged, under the Public Printer, in the work of printing and book-binding for the Library. It has come into active relations with the libraries of the country, and, while rendering greatly increased service to Congress, has begun a career of service to the whole nation.

CONSTITUTION.²

There is no single act of Congress setting forth the constitution of the Library. Sections 80-100 of chapter 6 of the Revised Statutes of 1873 and the appropriation act of 1897 are the most important laws relating to the institution. The Library is classed by law as a branch of the legislative department of the Government, and although the librarian is appointed by the President he reports directly to Congress. Appropriations for its support are

¹For a description of the condition of the Library in 1900 cf. Putnam, H., *The Library of Congress*, *Atlantic Monthly*, vol. 85, pp. 147-58. Cf. also *Annual report of the librarian*, 1901, pp. 292-351.

²Cf. *Annual report for 1901*, pp. 198-208.

made annually by Congress in the legislative appropriation bill. The librarian submits to the Treasury estimates of his needs, and appears before the appropriations committee in support of his recommendations.

The total appropriation for 1922 was \$711,745.00, divided as follows:

Contingent expenses.....	\$8,000.00
Increase of Library:	
Books.....	\$90,000.00
Law books.....	3,000.00
Periodicals.....	5,000.00
	98,000.00
Salaries.....	572,745.00
Fuel, lights, furniture, etc.....	33,000.00
	\$711,745.00

The building is open from 9 a. m. until 10 p. m., except on Sundays and most holidays, when it is open from 2 until 10 p. m. The main reading room and the periodical reading room are open during these hours, and the other reading rooms and offices from 9 a. m. until 4.30 p. m.

The Library is absolutely free to any reader over 16 years old. The privilege of drawing books for home use is confined to Senators and Representatives, certain high officials of the Government, judges, and other persons designated by statute. The librarian, in pursuance of his authority to make rules and regulations, occasionally grants this privilege to scholars engaged in research. The Government bureaus in Washington draw books freely for official use, usually through their librarians.²

The purpose of the administration is the freest possible use of the books consistent with their safety, and the widest possible use consistent with the convenience of Congress. There is no limit to the number of books a reader may draw for reference use, and he has direct access to a reference collection of over

¹This sum is exclusive of a credit of \$250,000 at the Government Printing Office for printing and binding. (For 1922-23, \$212,500)

²Cf. Annual report, 1907, pp. 70-78; *ibid.*, 1908, pp. 57-66.

15,000 volumes in the main reading room. If his studies require that he have access to the shelves, this privilege is granted him, and if he needs to have the continuous use of the same books day after day, he is given a table where they may be reserved for him. When a typewriting machine will greatly facilitate a scholar's labors, a desk is provided in a room where readers will not be disturbed by its use. The library has no force of copyists, but gives to those desiring to have extracts made the names and addresses of persons making a business of such work. Photoduplicates of books, newspapers, maps, etc., are furnished at a reasonable rate by means of photostat machines, installed in the chief clerk's office.

BUILDING.

The plans for the building,¹ which was begun in 1886 and completed in 1897, were drawn by Messrs. Smithmeyer & Pelz, but the building was actually constructed and many architectural details worked out under Gen. Thomas L. Casey, Chief of Engineers, United States Army, and after his death by Bernard R. Green. The exterior is of gray granite, and the interior is highly decorated with marbles, sculpture, and paintings. The building occupies $3\frac{1}{2}$ acres of land, contains 7,500,000 cubic feet of space, and over 8 acres of floor space. The bookstacks are of steel (Snead-Green shelving), and the whole construction is fireproof. About a thousand readers can be accommodated at one time in the various reading rooms and alcoves. Owing to the rapid growth of the collections, a bookstack was constructed (1909) in

¹Cf. Small, Herbert, *Handbook of the Library of Congress*, Boston, 1909; Green, B. R., *The new building for the Library of Congress*, *Library Journal*, vol. 21, pp. 13-20; Green, B. R., *The building for the Library of Congress*, *Smithsonian Institution, Annual report, 1897*, pp. 625-633; Bain, G. G., *The Congressional Library at Washington*, *American Architect and Building News*, vol. 48, pp. 95-97; Schuyler, M., *The new Library of Congress*, *Scribner's Magazine*, vol. 21, pp. 709-27; Spofford, A. R., *The Nation's library: I, The new building; II, Special features of the Congressional Library*, *Century*, vol. 31, pp. 682-694; Hempstead, E. A., *The new Congressional Library*, *Chataquan*, vol. 23, pp. 695-705; Maury, N. B., *The new Congressional Library*, *Cosmopolitan*, vol. 23, pp. 10-20; *The National Library*, *Munsey's Magazine*, vol. 18, pp. 707-713; Coffin, W. A., *The decorations in the new Congressional Library*, *Century*, vol. 31, pp. 694-711.

the southeast courtyard. This is lighted wholly by electricity and ventilated by forced draft.

COLLECTIONS.

The collection of printed books and pamphlets, comprising over 3,000,000 volumes, is now the largest in the Western Hemisphere and third in the world. The main collections are strongest in bibliography, history, political and social sciences, public law and legislation, the fine arts, American local history, biography and genealogy. Through the Smithsonian Institution extensive files of the transactions of foreign learned societies are received. Under the operation of the copyright law has been built up (chiefly since 1870) the most complete collection in existence of the products of the American press. Through the international exchange service are now received annually about 12,000 volumes of the publications of foreign governments. American governments, federal, state and local, are adding about 24,000 volumes yearly.

During the past 24 years (1899-1922) the accessions from the principal sources of increase of the book collections have been as follows: purchases, 637,800 volumes; gifts from private donors, 253,600; by copyright, 313,400; through the Smithsonian Institution, 154,400; from foreign governments, 225,800; from American governments, federal, state and local, 353,500.

The special book collections include the library of Thomas Jefferson purchased for \$23,950 in 1815, 6,760 volumes, of which two-thirds were destroyed by fire in 1851; the Peter Force collection of Americana, 60,000 books and pamphlets, purchased for \$100,000 in 1867; the Toner collection of medicine and American local history, 24,484 volumes, presented by Dr. Joseph M. Toner in 1882; the Yudin collection, 80,000 volumes chiefly in the Russian language, particularly valuable for the history of Russia and Siberia, acquired in 1907; the Japanese collection, 9,000 volumes, purchased in 1907; the Huitfeldt-Kaas collection of Scandinavian literature, 5,000 volumes; the Weber collection of Sanskrit literature, 4,020 volumes; the Schiff-Deinard collection of Semitica,

22,000 volumes; the Hoes collection of 4,864 books and pamphlets relating to the Spanish-American war; the Chinese collection of 87,000 volumes (fascicules) acquired for the most part since 1906.

The John Boyd Thacher collections, five in number, deposited in the Library by Mrs. Thacher as loans, to be freely administered for exhibit and for study, are especially noteworthy: European incunabula, 928 volumes, printed before the year 1501; early Americana—works relating to Columbus and the discovery of America; the French Revolution, 1,581 printed volumes; "Outlines of the French Revolution told in autographs", a collection of 1,600 letters and manuscript documents; and a collection of autograph documents and signatures of crowned heads of Europe and other foreign celebrities (1,300 pieces).

The main collections of the Library are supplemented by those of several separate departments: maps, music, prints, law, manuscripts and Semitic, Slavic and Oriental literature, more fully mentioned hereafter under these several headings.

ADMINISTRATION (16 PERSONS)

The administrative officers of the Library are the librarian, chief assistant librarian, chief clerk, and secretary.

The duties of the librarian, chief assistant librarian, and secretary are those customary in libraries, save that the librarian is not under the direction of a board of trustees. The functions of the chief clerk are those of an executive assistant. He is charged with the discipline of the force, and in his office are kept records of the service and of the expenditures under the appropriations for the Library and the allotment for printing and binding.

The Act of June 29, 1922, abolished the office of superintendent of building and grounds and divided the duties between an administrative assistant, appointed by the librarian, and the architect of the Capitol. To the latter officer the act gave charge of all structural work, repairs, the operation of the mechanical apparatus, the upkeep of the grounds and the purchasing of furniture.

The administrative assistant, aided by a force of 128 employees, is charged with the care, maintenance and protection of the building, and the disbursement of the appropriations.

THE DIVISIONS.

The Library force is organized into "divisions", each with a chief and assistants; some of the divisions, including the Copyright Office, are further divided into sections.

The Mail and Delivery Division (6 persons) handles all materials arriving at or dispatched from the Library building, including all mail matter and all books delivered for outside use. The yearly mail received exceeds 310,000 items, including articles received for copyright, but not including newspapers and periodicals.

The Order and Accessions Division (14 persons) organized in 1900, attends to all business connected with the purchase of material for the increase of the collections of the Library. It handles in the first instance all such purchases and also all gifts, deposits, exchanges and transfers, excepting official donations of governmental publications, which are handled in the Documents Division.

No accession books are kept, as the files of vouchers contain all the information generally recorded in formal accession records. Every item approved for purchase is entered on a card, and from these cards the orders, in the form of lists, are prepared for the dealer. The result is a card catalogue of accessions. All bills are paid by check on the Treasury of the United States after the most careful auditing and final approval by the librarian. A card-ledger system is kept which shows at any moment the condition of each appropriation, the outstanding orders, bills paid, and balances available.

Printing Office and Bindery.—These are branches of the Government Printing Office, which supplies the equipment and details the workmen. The work done is solely for the Library, and is charged to the "allotment" of the Library for binding and printing. The allotment for 1922 was \$250,000; for 1923, \$212,500. The printing office prints the catalogue cards, and all needed forms and circulars.¹ Six linotype machines are kept constantly busy at the card work.

¹The publications of the Library in book form are printed at the Government Printing Office, not at the Library branch.

The binding for the Library is mainly done in the building. A special *Binding Division* (3 persons) has charge of forwarding material in proper shape, keeping accounts with the bindery, etc.

The *Catalogue Division* (91 persons) deals with printed books and pamphlets only, and includes the work of classification, shelving, labeling, preparation of copy of catalogue cards for the printer, proof reading, and filing cards in the various catalogues.

The Catalogue Division not only catalogues and classifies the current accessions (over 100,000 volumes annually), but has been engaged since 1899 in reclassifying and recataloguing the entire collection. The greater part of the Library has now (1922) been reclassified, and new catalogue entries have been made for over four-fifths of the entire collection. When this work was begun in 1899 there were approximately 700,000 volumes, exclusive of duplicates, to be handled. Moreover, the catalogue being in the form of printed cards, a considerable force otherwise available for cataloguing was necessarily devoted to proof reading. Not only has the enormous task been almost completed in a little more than two decades, but its daily results in the cards printed have been made available to the libraries of the whole country, assisting them to an extraordinary degree in the preparation of their catalogues and relieving them of a very considerable expense.

The system of classification adopted has been devised from a comparison of existing schemes and a consideration of the particular conditions in this Library. The schedules are still somewhat subject to change, and therefore no complete scheme has been printed. The outlines for most of the classes have been issued in pamphlet form.

The main catalogue¹ of books and pamphlets is in the form of printed cards, arranged in the "dictionary" order—*i. e.*, author, title, and subject entries in one alphabet. The rules followed are those of the American and British Library Associations. There are also special catalogues in book form for many of the special

¹For the earlier catalogues in book form see Ford, Paul Leicester, *A list of the Library of Congress catalogues*, *Library Journal*, vol. 15, pp. 326-327; also *Annual Report of the Librarian*, 1901, Appendix II, pp. 362-367.

collections, as prints, maps, manuscripts, etc. These are noted under the various divisions.

The Card Division (50 persons) established in 1901, handles the accumulated stock of printed catalogue cards and their distribution and sale.¹

The stock now (1922) contains over 870,000 different cards, with an average of about 75 copies of each, or a total of over 65,000,000 cards. They are stored by serial number in steel cases. Complete sets of one copy of each card published are on deposit in over 40 of the principal library centers of the country, enabling inquirers in those places to ascertain whether a book is in the Library of Congress, and also facilitating greatly the ordering of printed cards. Cards may be ordered by card number, by title, by series and by subject. They are sold under the law governing the sale of public documents at the cost of manufacture plus 10 per cent. The price of the first copy of each card varies from 2½c. to 5c. according to method of ordering; the price of cards after the first is \$.013 each. In 1922 more than 3,000 libraries and individuals purchased cards, and the receipts from sales amounted to over \$100,000.

The Bibliography Division (7 persons) deals with inquiries involving research too elaborate for the attendants in the reading room, or in form inconvenient for them to handle expeditiously; compiles and publishes lists of references on topics of current interest, particularly those pending in Congress. The division furnishes references in the case of numerous inquiries received by mail, and is also very frequently called into service by Members of Congress.

Reading Rooms (66 persons). The main reading room is in the center of the building. It has desks for 200 readers. There are 60 tables in the galleries which can be assigned to scholars making extended investigations. The issue desk in the center is

¹Cf. U. S. Library of Congress, *Handbook of Card Distribution*. 5th ed. Washington, Government Printing Office, 1921.

Hastings, Charles H., *L. C. printed cards and how to order and use them*. 4th ed. Washington, Government Printing Office, 1921.

connected with the stacks, the Capitol, Smithsonian Division, and the librarian's office by pneumatic tubes. Electric book carriers connect the desk with the north and south stacks and with the Capitol. Books can ordinarily be delivered to readers in about five minutes after a request is handed in.

The alcoves surrounding the reading room contain a reference collection of some 15,000 volumes, to which access is entirely free. The card catalogues of the Library are on the floor of the reading room.

In addition to the main reading room there are separate reading rooms for Senators and Representatives. A station is maintained at the Capitol for the receipt and delivery of books (an electric carrier runs through a tunnel over 1,200 feet long connecting the station with the Library—the passage takes three minutes). There are also in their respective divisions reading rooms for periodicals and newspapers, fine arts, maps, music, and law.

There is also a separate reading room for the blind, equipped with nearly 10,000 embossed-type books, pamphlets, maps and musical compositions. The service rendered to blind readers is country-wide through loans by mail (post free under a special provision of law). The work includes also informational service (as to the blind and undertakings for their welfare) much sought and influential. It is also a directing agency for the work of volunteers embossing books for the blind.

Periodicals Division (12 persons), organized in 1901, handles all periodicals as received, and prepares the completed volumes for binding. The total number of periodicals received is in excess of 7,400. Over 770 newspapers are currently received, including 120 foreign newspapers; of these 327 are bound and shelved. Half the space in the new stack in the southeast court is fitted up with shelving designed especially for bound volumes of newspapers. The files of American newspapers are very extensive,¹ (60,000 bound volumes) while the collection of newspapers of the eighteenth century is perhaps the largest in

¹ Cf. U. S. Library of Congress, Check List of American Newspapers, 1901.

America.¹ The reading room for periodicals occupies the south side of the building on the main floor. It has seats for 200 readers, who have direct access to the current issues of about 280 newspapers and over 1,500 magazines which are on file in this room.

Documents Division (7 persons), organized in 1901. The function of this division is to acquire, arrange, and make available for use the publications of governments, national, local, and municipal, and of quasi-public bodies, such as commercial organizations, international congresses, and the like. This division has charge of the exchange of publications of the Federal Government for those of other nations. The average annual receipt of these foreign documents is about 10,000 volumes and pamphlets. The average annual accessions of all documents total over 45,000, of which over 11,000 are publications of the several States of the Union. Since January, 1910, this division has edited the Monthly Check-list of State Publications.

The Division of Manuscripts (4 persons), established 1897, has the custody of manuscript material not classified as maps, music, or prints. There is a special reading room for the consultation of manuscripts, in which is placed the card index to the collection. The collection consists almost wholly of the papers of American public men and of the Federal Government, and is by far the largest in America. It is constantly growing by gift and purchase. A descriptive handbook² of the collections was issued in 1918; calendars have been published of several of the groups of papers,³ and the Journal of the Continental Congress is being published by the Library. The various departments of the Government are authorized to turn over to the Library material of his-

¹Cf. U. S. Library of Congress, Check List of American Eighteenth Century Newspapers, compiled by J. V. N. Ingram. Washington, Government Printing Office, 1912.

²Handbook. Handbook of Manuscripts in the Library of Congress. 1918.

³The Franklin papers (1905); John Paul Jones manuscripts (1903); Papers of James Monroe (1904); Naval records of the American Revolution (1906); Vernon-Wager manuscripts (1904); Washington aids (1906); Washington correspondence (1906); Washington manuscripts (1901); Van Buren papers (1911); Crittenden papers (1913).

torical importance as it ceases to be needed in the departments. Much extremely valuable material has been received in pursuance of this law.

Manuscripts are repaired (frequently a task of great difficulty), mounted, and bound into volumes. The repairers and mounters handle about 8,500 pieces annually. Index cards are written for all important items in each manuscript.

Manuscripts are consulted by readers only under the supervision of attendants. The privilege of making extracts and photographs is granted on permit from the librarian.

Division of Maps and Charts (6 persons), organized in 1897. All maps, atlases, and many works on cartography are in the custody of this division (174,093 pieces, 1922). Maps are kept flat in steel cases, each map in a separate manila paper folder. The collection is richest in maps of North America,¹ and includes a number of manuscript maps. The collection of atlases is especially noteworthy,² comprising over 5,300 titles, including most of the early printed atlases.

*The Division of Music*³ (7 persons), organized 1897, has the custody of the collection of music (both scores and works of music), numbering over 950,000 items in 1922, with yearly accessions of more than 30,000. The greater part of the collection has been acquired by copyright, but of late extensive purchases have been made in addition. The Library now owns one of the largest and finest collections of music in the world, and by far the largest in America.⁴

¹Cf. U. S. Library of Congress, *A List of Maps of America in the Library of Congress* ... by P. Lee Phillips. Washington, Government Printing Office, 1901.

²Cf. U. S. Library of Congress, *A List of Geographical Atlases in the Library of Congress*, compiled under the direction of P. Lee Phillips. 4 vols. Washington, Government Printing Office, 1909-1920.

³Sonneck, O. G. T., *The Music Division of the Library of Congress, in the Proceedings of the Music Teachers' National Association, 1908.*

⁴U. S. Library of Congress, *Dramatic Music: Catalogue of full Scores.* Compiled by O. G. T. Sonneck. Washington, Government Printing Office, 1908. U. S. Library of Congress, *Catalogue of Early Books on Music (before 1800)* ... Washington, Government Printing Office, 1913. U. S. Library of Congress, *Catalogue of Orchestral Music, Part I, scores* ... by O. G. T. Sonneck. Washington, Government Printing Office, 1912. U. S. Library of Congress, *Catalogue of Opera Librettos printed before 1800.* 2 vols. Washington, Government Printing Office, 1914.

Division of Prints (5 persons), organized in 1897. The collections of prints of all sorts and the books and periodicals devoted to the fine arts are in charge of this division. In 1922 the books numbered about 44,000 volumes; the prints, photographs and reproductions of all kinds numbered 428,745 pieces. Worthy of special note are the George Lothrop Bradley collection of 1,980 pieces (originally a loan but now the property of the Library), the Gardiner Greene Hubbard collection of prints (of which the Library issued a catalogue in 1905), the Joseph and Elizabeth Robins Pennell collection of Whistleriana presented in 1917, and a bequest of about 1,000 prints from the late C. L. Freer. Additions to the Hubbard collection are made from the income arising from a bequest of \$20,000 made by Mrs. Hubbard for this specific purpose. In addition to these collections the T. H. Garrett collection of 19,113 pieces has been deposited as a loan for exhibition and reference.

Law Library (8 persons); 196,573 volumes in 1922. Part of the Law Library (American and English statutes, reports and legal periodicals, together with a selection of American and English treatises) is kept at the Capitol, where it occupies rooms on the ground floor. In the Library proper are placed works on foreign law, history and philosophy of law, and jurisprudence, nearly complete sets of American reports, a selection of treatises, and a set of the original Records and Briefs of the United States Supreme Court.

The Law Library also contains a valuable collection of legal incunabula and other early material.

Under the direction of the law librarian, acting under special authorization from Congress, an index to the Federal Statutes from 1789 to 1907 was compiled and published in 1908-11.¹ This index has since been brought up to date as a card index by the American Law Section of the Legislative Reference Service.

¹An Index Analysis of the Federal Statutes ... by G. W. Scott and M. G. Beaman. Prepared under the direction of the Librarian of Congress. 2 vols. Washington, Government Printing Office, 1908-11. (Not distributed by the Library, but sold only by the Superintendent of Documents)

Division of Semitic, Slavic and Oriental literature (5 persons), organized in 1914. This is the only division whose field is delimited by the languages of the material to be administered. Its functions include the cataloguing and classifying of books in the three groups indicated above, as well as the custody, care and administration of these collections.

The Semitic collection contains about 22,300 volumes in the Hebrew, Yiddish and cognate languages, the most of which, collected by Dr. Ephraim Deinard, were presented to the Library by the late Mr. Jacob Schiff in 1912 and 1914. Yearly additions have made the collection one of the largest and most important, both in quality and quantity.

The Slavic collection contains 80,000 volumes, chiefly in the Russian language. The private library of Gennadius Vasilievich Yudin of Krasnoïarsk, Siberia, acquired in 1907, constitutes the greater part of the collection, to which, however, considerable additions are made each year through purchase and gift.

The Oriental collection consists chiefly of East Asiatic literature. It includes upwards of 87,000 Chinese volumes, possibly the largest and best Chinese library outside of China. This collection was begun by the first American minister to China, Hon. Caleb Cushing, who brought home about 2,500 selected works for the Library. During the Roosevelt administration another American minister, Hon. W. W. Rockhill, gave more than 6,000 volumes and the Chinese government gave 7,000. The preeminence of the collection is due, however, to additions in excess of 50,000 volumes selected for the Library since 1914 by Dr. Walter T. Swingle of the Department of Agriculture.

Japanese books to the number of 13,000 volumes, selected for the most part by Dr. Asakawa of Yale University with the assistance of other Japanese authorities make up a good working collection for students of Japanese history, literature and institutions.

East Indian languages and literature are represented by the library of the late Dr. Albrecht Weber, professor of Sanskrit at the University of Berlin, comprising 4,020 volumes acquired in 1905.

Smaller groups of Manchu, Mongol, Korean, Thibetan, Turkish, Persian and Arabic books constitute the remainder of the Orientalia.

The Legislative Reference Division (variable number of persons), organized in 1914, renders service only to Congress, its committees and members, by gathering data bearing upon legislation. It collects, classifies and indexes material containing information on topics likely to come up for Congressional action. Corresponding to three principal classes of topics on which information is required, the division is organized in three sections:

- (a) The American law section, which indexes the Federal and state laws as rapidly as the texts become available.
- (b) The Foreign law section, which indexes and translates the laws of other countries.
- (c) The Economic, Statistic and History section, which collects and indexes current miscellaneous material on matters likely to be the subject of Congressional inquiry.

Copyright Office (91 persons), organized in its present form in 1897. It has the entire "copyright business" in its charge. The office is under the register of copyrights, who "acts under the direction and supervision of the Librarian of Congress". It receives and records all material offered for copyright entry, turning over to the Library such items as are desired. Fees received from owners of copyrights are turned into the United States Treasury. These amounted to \$138,516.15 in 1922, exceeding the appropriation for the office by \$33,776.15. The total number of articles deposited was 241,262 in 1922. The office publishes in weekly and monthly issues a Catalogue of Copyright Entries, recording each item copyrighted, and forming the most complete record made of the product of the press of America.

The Library of Congress and other libraries.—The resources of the Library of Congress are available for other libraries, (1) by the sale and deposit of printed catalogue cards; (2) interlibrary loans; (3) distribution and sale of its publications, including bibliographies of special topics; (4) cooperation in publishing.

The sale of printed cards has been mentioned above.¹ The inter-library loan is a matter of comparatively recent development. It acts on the principle that the duty of the national library is to aid the unusual need with the unusual book. Books are lent to other libraries for the use of investigators engaged in research expected to enlarge the boundaries of knowledge. The material lent can not include, therefore, books that should be in a local library, or that can be borrowed from a library (such as a State library) having a particular duty to the community from which the application comes; nor books that are inexpensive and can easily be procured; nor books for the general reader, mere textbooks, or popular manuals; nor books where the purpose is ordinary student or thesis work, or for mere self-instruction. Nor can it include material which is in constant use at Washington, or whose loan would be an inconvenience to Congress, or to the executive departments of the Government, or to reference readers in the Library of Congress.

Genealogies and local histories are not as a rule available for loan, nor are newspapers, the latter forming part of a consecutive historical record which the Library of Congress is expected to retain and preserve; and only for serious research can the privilege be extended to include volumes of periodicals.

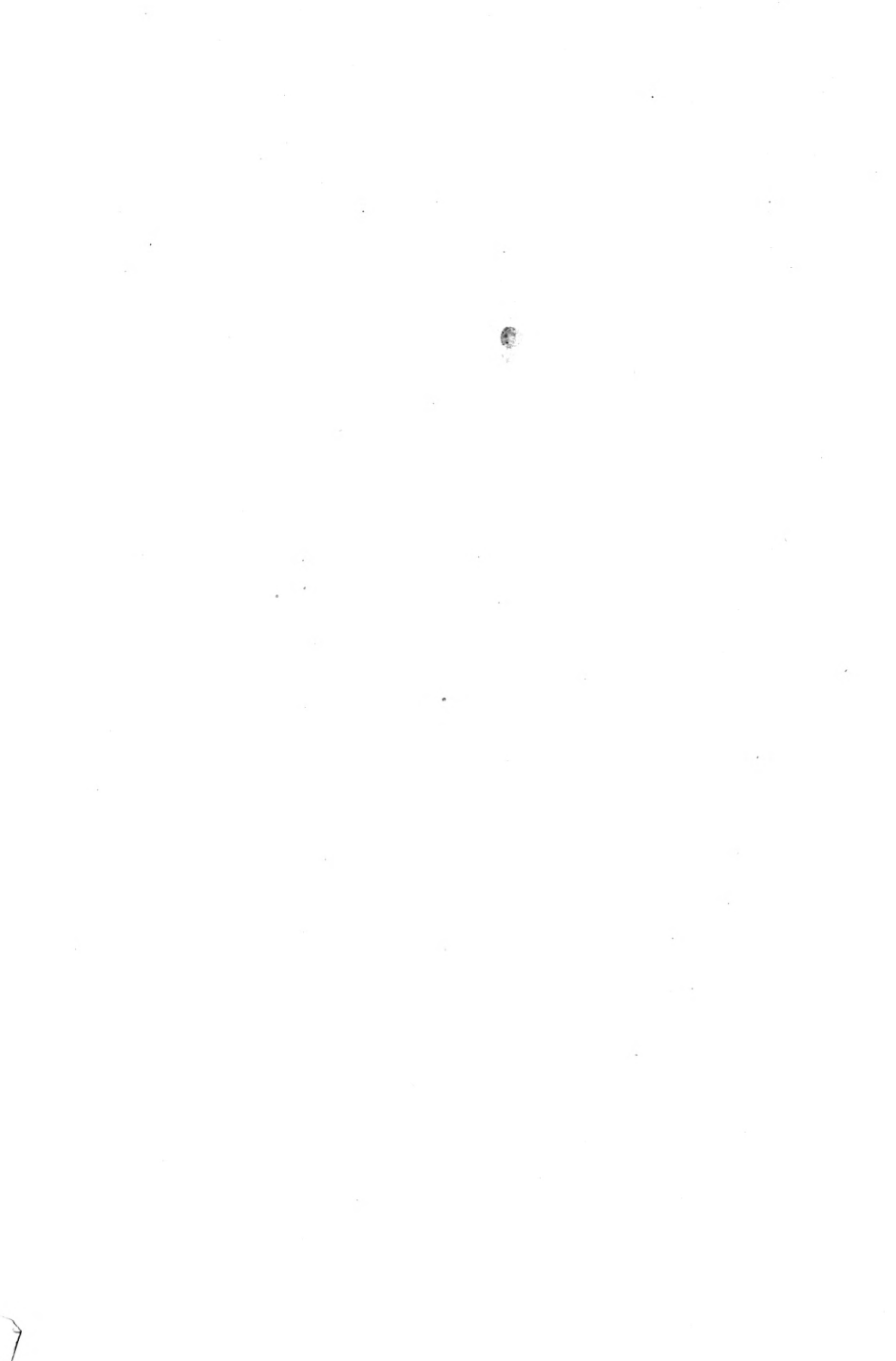
The expense of transportation are borne by the borrowing library.

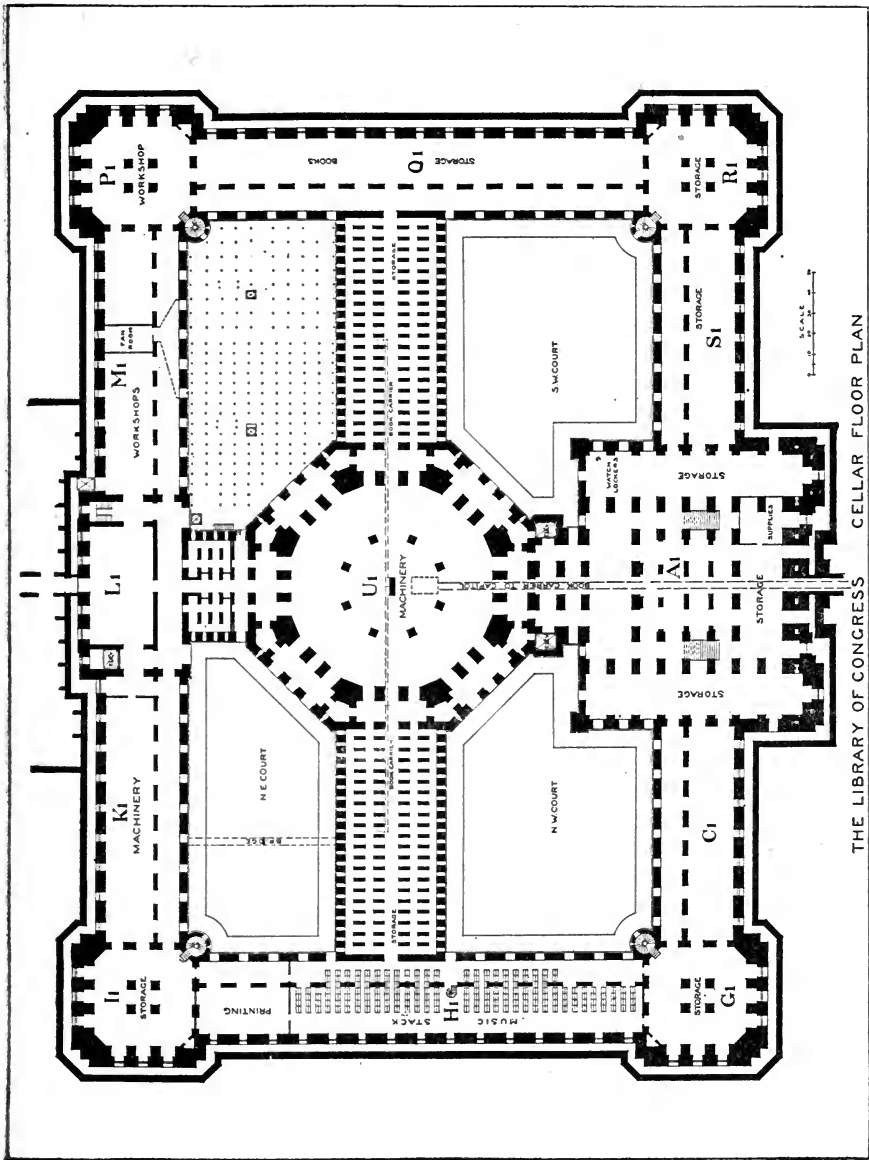
The publications² of the Library are distributed by exchange with other institutions and by sale through the office of the Superintendent of Documents of the Government Printing Office. A very limited number is distributed gratis.

The Library has cooperated with the American Library Association in editing and publishing the A. L. A. Catalog of 1904 and the A. L. A. Portrait Index, and with the libraries of the District of Columbia in the Union List of Periodicals, Transactions, and Allied Publications, issued in 1901.

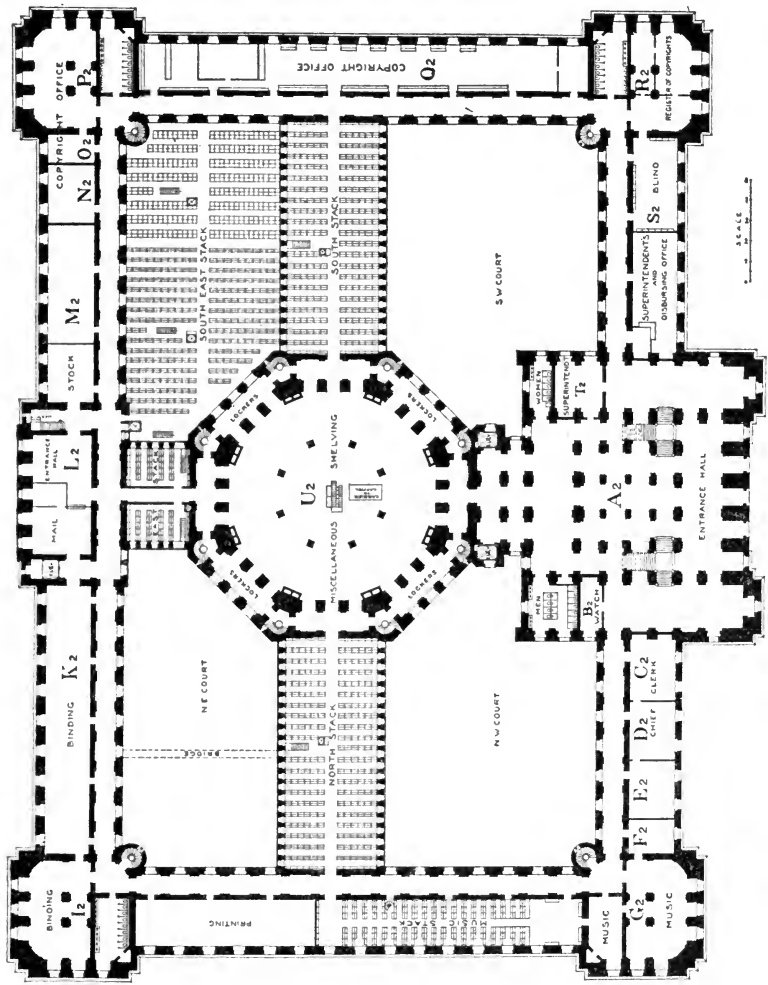
¹Page 14.

²U. S. Library of Congress, Publications issued since 1897. October, 1920.



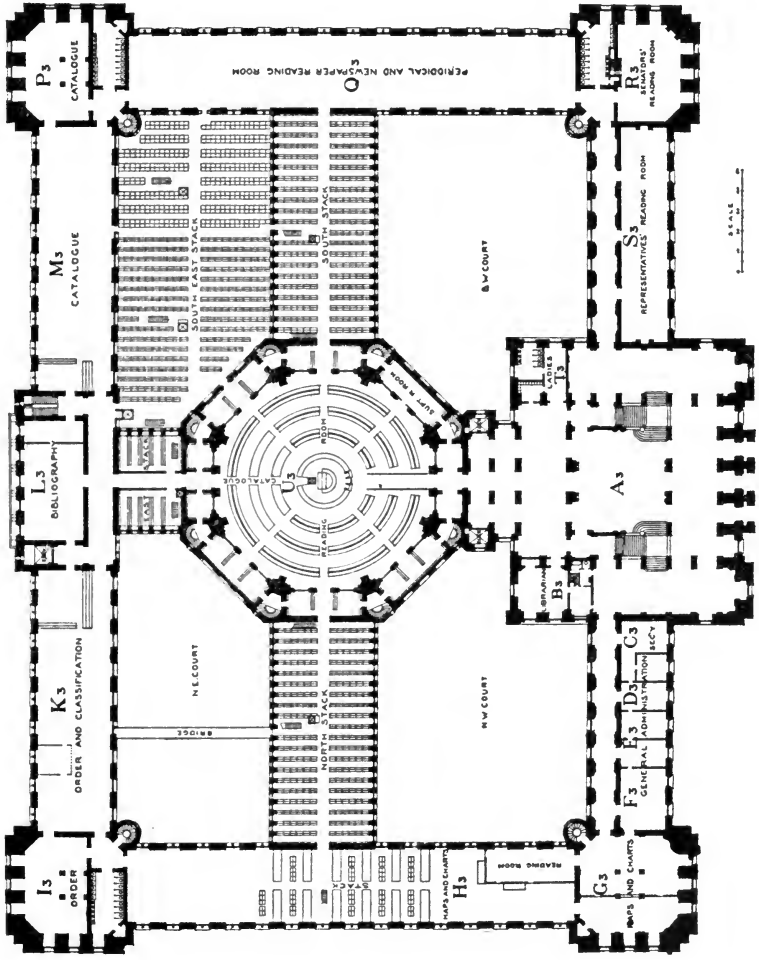


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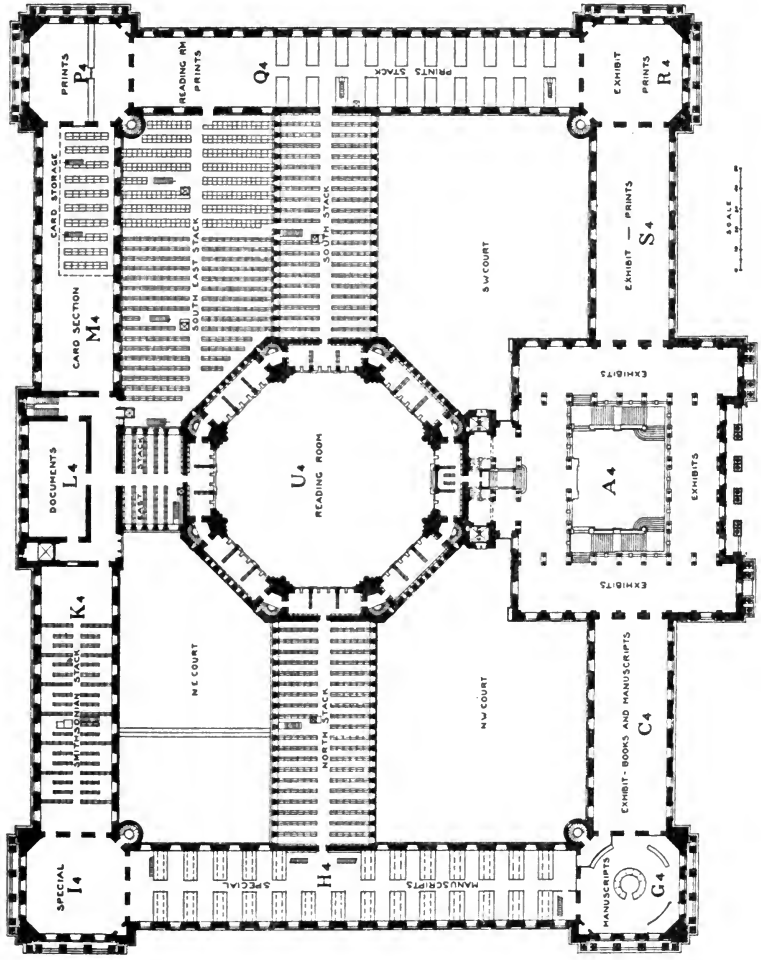
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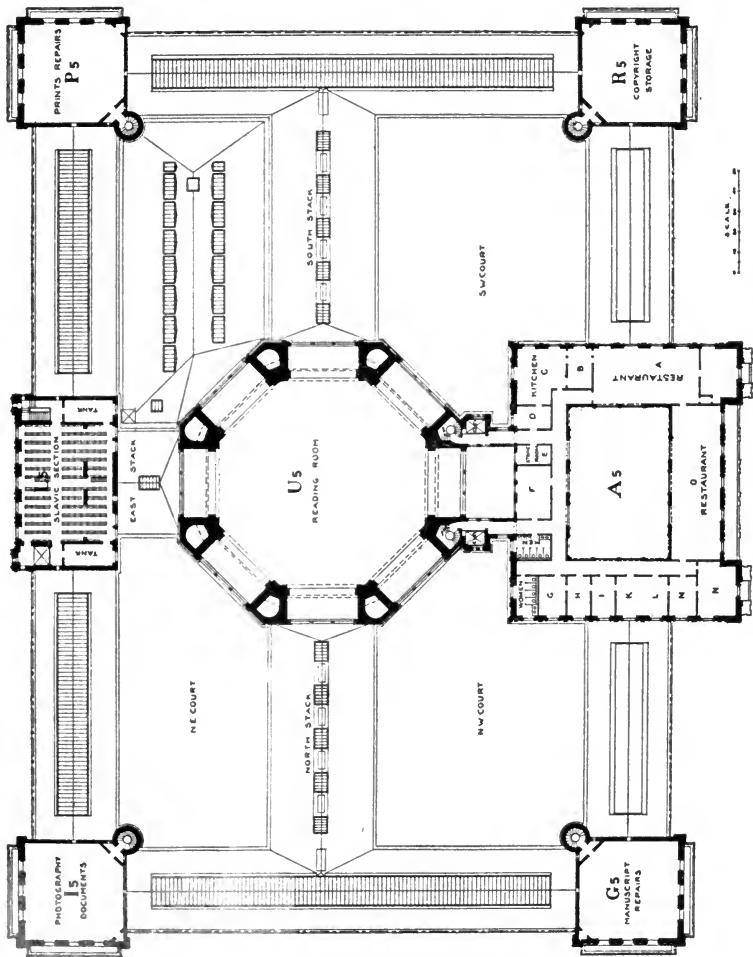


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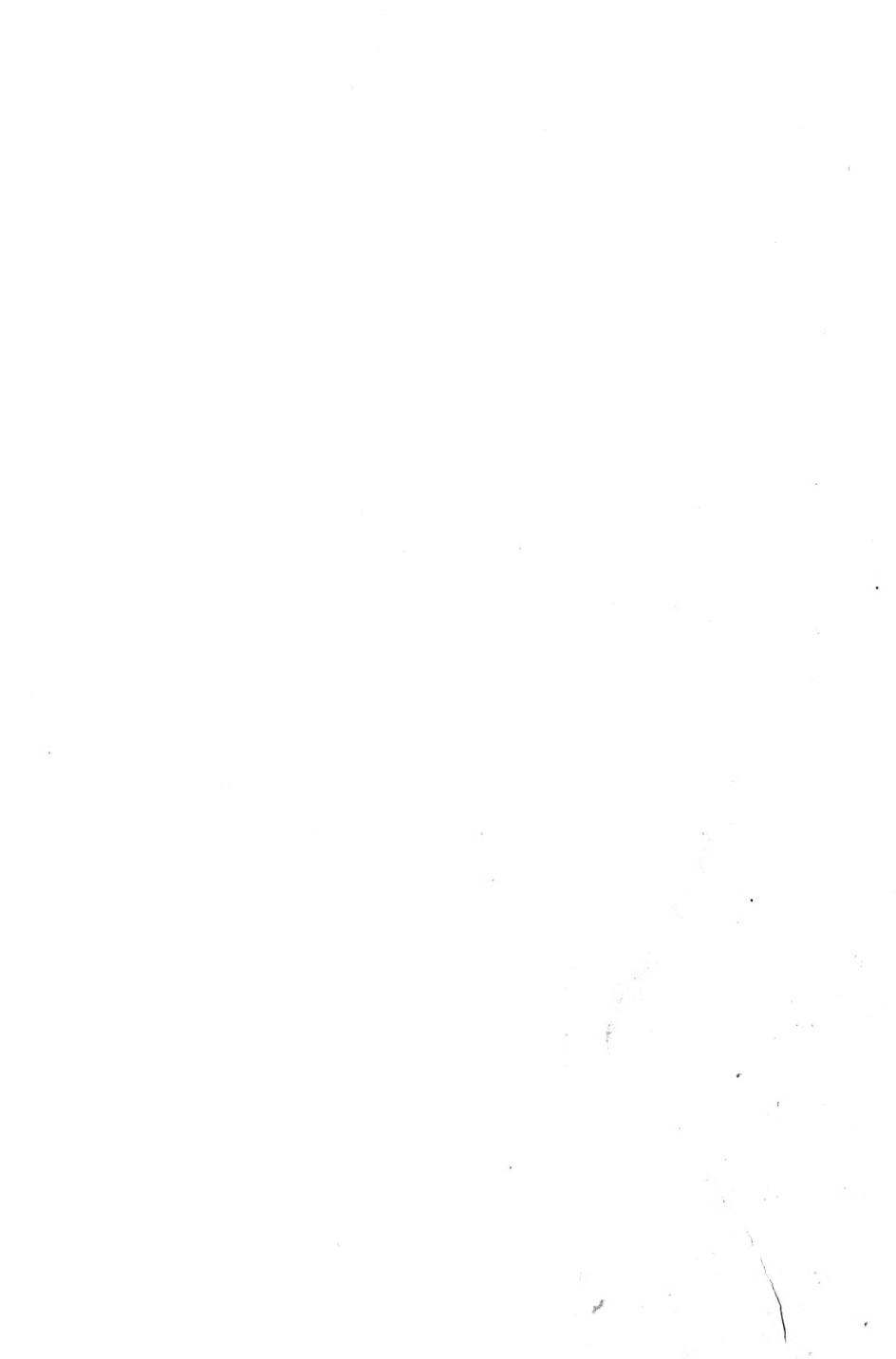


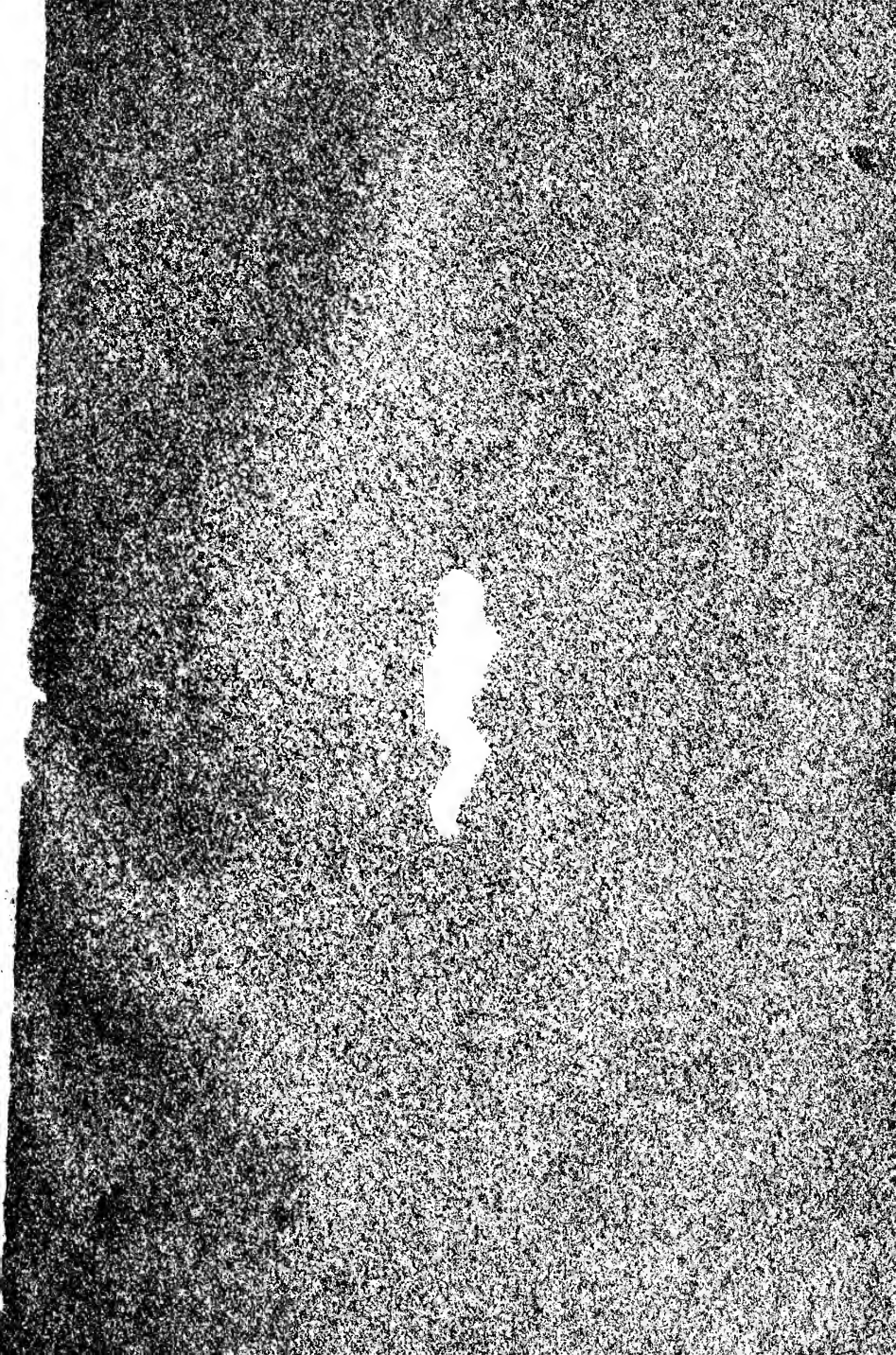


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